

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) At least three-layered, coextruded, tubular, biaxially stretched seamless tubular casing comprising, viewed from the outside inwards,
  - a) an outer layer A which comprises as the main component a polyamide or a mixture of several polyamides,
  - b) optionally a layer B which has an oxygen-blocking character,
  - c) optionally a core layer C which comprises as the main component a polyamide or a mixture of several polyamides,
  - d) a layer D which has an adhesion-promoting action with respect to the adjacent layer C or B or A and the adjacent layer E and
  - e) an inner layer E which comprises as the main component a polyamide or a mixture of several polyamides,
  - f) optionally further layers and additives, wherein
  - g) at least one layer comprises natural fibres having a fibre length in the range of from 5 to 10,000 µm and/or a natural fibre mixture of various fibre types and/or fibre lengths.
2. (Original) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that the main components of layer A comprise either an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide.
3. (Original) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 2, characterized in that the partly aromatic polyamides used are substantially built up from m-xylylenediamine units and adipic acid units or from units of hexamethylenediamine, isophthalic acid and terephthalic acid.
4. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the natural fibres are cellulose fibres.

5. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ ~~claim 1~~, characterized in that the natural fibres are contained in at least one of the layers in an amount of from 0.1 to 70 wt.%, based on the total weight of the layer.

6. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer D comprises modified homo- and/or copolymers of  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms, which contain grafted-on or copolymerized monomers from the group consisting of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated dicarboxylic acids and/or monocarboxylic acids and/or derivatives thereof, or ~~optionally comprises a polymer as described in claim 2~~ an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide.

7. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer B comprises an approximately completely ~~hydrolysed~~ hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (EVOH) having an ethylene content of between 25 and 53 % by weight or ~~modified homo- and/or copolymers of  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms, which contain grafted-on or copolymerized monomers from the group consisting of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated dicarboxylic acids and/or monocarboxylic acids and/or derivatives thereof, an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide~~ ~~a polymer as in claim 2 or claim 6~~.

8. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer C comprises ~~a polymer as in claim 2~~ an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide or optionally a polyolefin homo- or copolymer or a blend of these.

9. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer E comprises ~~a polymer as in claim 2~~ an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide.

10. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~  
claim 1, characterized in that the sum of all the layer thicknesses is 25 to 80 µm.

11. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~  
claim 1, characterized in that this is heat-set.

12. Cancelled

13. Cancelled

14. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer B  
comprises an approximately completely hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (EVOH)  
having an ethylene content of between 29 and 38 % by weight and a thickness between 3 and 6  
µm.

15. (New) A wrapping material for paste-like and liquid fillings which comprises the casing  
as claimed in claim 1.

16. (New) The wrapping material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the paste-like filling is  
sausage meat.

17. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein said layer D has a  
thickness between 1 and 6 µm.

18. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein said layer E has a thickness  
less than 10 µm.

19. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 14, wherein said layer D has a  
thickness between 1 and 6 µm. and said layer E has a thickness less than 10 µm and the sum of  
all the layer thicknesses is 25 to 80 µm.